Docket No.: 21029-00272-US

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Francois Mignard

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: PROCESS FOR THE CONTROLLED OXIDATION OF A STRIP BEFORE CONTINUOUS GALVANIZING, AND

GALVANIZING LINE

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.